

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TENNESSEE TRAGEDIES

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I rise today to express my deepest sympathies and offer steadfast support to the countless Tennesseans who have experienced tragedy in the recent days.

It has been a rough few weeks in our great State. Last week, my hometown of Chattanooga lost six young children in a tragic schoolbus crash. Today, countless East Tennesseans face a long road ahead after severe storms and tornadoes ripped through southeast Tennessee, leaving tremendous damage and taking the lives of two individuals in Polk County.

Tomorrow morning, I will be in another area of our State that is dealing with unimaginable tragedy. As you have likely seen by now, the damage caused by wildfires in Sevier County, the place where my wife was raised, is heartbreaking. While officials continue to assess the full extent of the damage, we know that many have suffered tremendous loss. As of this morning, officials confirmed that they are still addressing the remnants of smoldering wildfires. More than 400 firefighters are supporting the effort. The exact number of structures affected remains unknown, but local officials are estimating 700 impacted structures and more than 17,000 acres burned. More than 200 individuals remain in shelters, and just moments ago, we learned that 10 fatalities have been confirmed.

Sevier County is a special place, surrounded by some of the country's most beautiful God-given amenities. Millions of people from around the world visit each year and have built memories in this treasured community. But as the mayor of Gatlinburg noted earlier today, "it's not the attractions or the restaurants that make this place special, it's the people" who live there.

So many wonderful families call Sevier County home—tough, proud people whose roots in the area span generations.

Those who know the area and these people are not at all surprised by the community response. The Nation has watched and read countless stories of selfless individuals—many who lost everything themselves—helping others. We have watched the mayor and city manager of Gatlinburg, both of whom lost their own homes, provide steadfast strength and grace. We have watched the Sevier County mayor close each press conference with a simple request: "Pray for us."

The coming days, weeks, and months will not be easy. The recovery will take time. We are committed to doing everything that we all can do to help you rebuild. The support does not end when the cameras leave. Governor Haslam, Senator ALEXANDER, Congressman ROE, and I are ready to support requests for assistance for the recovery efforts. People throughout Tennessee and across the Nation will be back to visit very soon. Of course, as has been requested, we will continue to pray.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WORLD AIDS DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to discuss World AIDS Day. Thirty years ago, the National Academy of Sciences's Institute of Medicine issued a report calling for a "massive media, educational and public health campaign to curb the spread of the HIV infection." The global community heeded that call and today, on World AIDS Day, we celebrate progress that we have made in treating and preventing HIV/AIDS both at home and abroad and recommit ourselves to creating an AIDS-free generation.

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to visit an HIV/AIDS clinic in Namibia supported by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR, and the Global Fund. While there, I met a 30-year-old man named Simon who said he would not be alive without the international community's HIV/AIDS assistance. While the individual stories of people like Simon are a testament to the hard-fought progress this global response has achieved, the aggregate impact of our efforts cannot be understated. PEPFAR has been a bipartisan success story that began with a strong commitment by President George W. Bush and grew under President Obama. It must continue to have broad-based support in a Trump administration and in the 115th Congress, so we can keep making inroads against this pernicious disease.

Since 2005, AIDS-related deaths have fallen by 45 percent globally. In Africa, new HIV infections have declined 14 percent since 2010, including a 66 percent reduction in new infections in children in the region. And today, 18.2 million men, women, and children worldwide are on antiretroviral therapy, double the number of people who had access just 5 years ago.

Nevertheless, there remains more work to be done. In my home State of Maryland, there were 1,334 new HIV diagnoses in 2015, ranking it the third highest adult HIV diagnosis rate per capita in the country. And globally, we are seeing data that indicates that

AIDS-related deaths are actually increasing among adolescents. At home and abroad, such trends are troubling.

We therefore cannot rest on our laurels. The United States must continue to lead this global fight. Through strong funding for PEPFAR and multi-lateral organizations like the Global Fund, we will ensure the continued commitment and leadership of partner countries reinforced with support from donor nations, civil society, and people living with HIV, faith-based organizations, the private sector, and foundations. And at here at home, we must ensure that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, the National Institutes of Health, NIH, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, and our State, local, and community partners have the resources they need to continue making significant progress to prevent, treat, and eventually cure this disease.

With our work cut out for us and the memories of far too many loved ones in our hearts, we strive on this World AIDS Day as an international community toward a world free of HIV/AIDS and recommit to mobilize the resources needed for treatment, to summon the compassion and understanding to prevent stigma, and to unleash our collective ingenuity and persistence in search of a cure.

REMEMBERING BISHOP EMERSON COLAW

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to remember a dear friend, Bishop Emerson Colaw, a devoted and widely respected leader of the United Methodist Church. Bishop Colaw passed away on October 11, 2016, at the age of 94 in Ohio, where he lived during the final years of his life.

Emerson Stephen Colaw was born November 13, 1921, in Chanute, KS, and moved to Cincinnati at the age of 16 to attend God's Bible School and College. A committed student, Colaw went on to earn a B.S. degree in 1944 from the University of Cincinnati, a bachelor of divinity, magna cum laude, in 1947 from Drew Theological Seminary, and a master of arts in 1953 from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. He also received honorary doctorates from five different institutions.

Remembered as a strong preacher and compassionate leader who loved the church and had a heart for the clergy, Colaw served as a mentor and role model of Christian discipleship for colleagues, congregants, friends, and family. He began his ministry as a clergyperson for the United Methodist Church serving the New York Annual Conference and the Northern Illinois Annual Conference, where he served three pastorates over 14 years.

In 1961, Colaw was appointed to Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church in Cincinnati, OH, part of the West Ohio Annual Conference. During his time in Cincinnati, Colaw spent many years as the moderator of a

weekly television program titled “Dialogue” which featured area clergy from a variety of faiths.

After 19 years of service to Hyde Park Community Methodist Church, in 1980, Colaw was elected Bishop of the Minnesota Conference, where he served until retiring from the episcopacy in 1988. He went on to serve as professor of Homiletics and Christian Ministry at the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH, from 1988 to 1999 and was its acting president in 1995–96. He later spent winters in Florida and served as bishop-in-residence at North Naples United Methodist Church.

Emmerson and his late wife, Jane, were married more than 70 years and raised 4 children, 8 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and a great-great-granddaughter.

I would like to honor Emmerson Colaw for his contributions to the United Methodist Church, his community, and our State.

REMEMBERING JAMES “JIM” F. DICKE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to remember James “Jim” F. Dicke, a WWII veteran, an Ohio business leader, and a philanthropist. Mr. Dicke passed away on Friday, November 11, 2016, at the age of 94.

Jim Dicke was born in New York in 1922 and raised in Dayton, OH, graduating from Stivers High School in 1939. He was an honorary graduate of Culver Military Academy and was awarded an honorary DBA by Ohio Northern University. A WWII veteran, Jim served as a lieutenant instructor in the Army Air Corps.

Following his military service, Jim returned to the Dayton region and worked with his father, Carl, and other family members to found a company called Crown Controls Company, now known as Crown Equipment Corporation, which is a leading global manufacturer of material handling equipment, currently in its fourth generation of family leadership. With over 4,400 Ohio employees, the New Bremen, OH, based company has three manufacturing facilities along I-75 in west Ohio, as well as a branch in Vandalia. We are proud to have this innovative, successful, and competitive manufacturer in the Buckeye State.

In addition to being a job creator and business leader, Jim Dicke was involved in many important community activities. He was a major benefactor to Ohio Northern University, where he was given an honorary doctorate in 2000 and where there are a number of namesakes there in his honor, including James F. Dicke Hall, home to the James F. Dicke College of Business Administration, as well as the Dicke House, home of the university's president.

Jim and his late wife, Eilleen, were married for almost 73 years and raised two sons, six grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

I would like to honor James Frank Dicke for his many contributions to his community and our State.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLLEGE OF WOOSTER

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the College of Wooster in recognition of its 150th anniversary of providing quality higher education to the citizens of Ohio. In 1865, Reverend James Reed, the minister of the First Presbyterian Church in Wooster, rallied the community to create a Presbyterian college in Wooster. On December 18, 1866, the then University of Wooster was incorporated by the Presbyterian Synod. In order to better reflect the institution's offerings, the University of Wooster became the College of Wooster. Wooster's first class consisted of 30 men and 4 women instructed by five faculty members; the college now enrolls over 2,000 students, representing 45 States and 44 countries, and instructed by 171 faculty members. Wooster now has more than 50 academic programs in business, the arts, humanities, and the sciences.

The mission of the College of Wooster is to create “a community of independent minds, working together to become leaders of character and influence in an interdependent global community.” Wooster accomplishes this by offering a rigorous and dynamic liberal education that focuses on mentoring, applied learning, and project based learning where students develop attributes that are valued by employers and important for developing the leaders of tomorrow. It is helping to ensure that students are prepared with the skills they need for the jobs of the 21st century. Because of this, 92 percent of Wooster graduates are either employed or in graduate school within 1 year after receiving their diplomas. We are proud to have this extraordinary independent college in Ohio.

I am here to honor the College of Wooster and to congratulate all of those who contributed to making its first 150 years such a success.

HONORING ERIC DALE ELLSWORTH

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, on Friday, November 18, 2016, Eric Ellsworth of Brigham City, UT, began his day like virtually every other day of his adult life. He put on his uniform and drove to work fully aware that it could be his last day on Earth. Eric was a State trooper with the Utah Highway Patrol, and for 7 years this is how he began each day: by summoning enough courage to last most men a lifetime.

Why did he do it?

I never had the privilege of meeting Eric. But over the past several days I have read a great deal about him, and based on the comments of his family, friends, and colleagues, I suspect the answer is that Eric wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

Like all law enforcement officers, the life of a trooper is a life of service to

one's community and one's fellow man—the vulnerable, the needy, and the insecure. It is also a life of sacrifice. And on November 18, 2016—that Friday that began like all the others—Trooper Ellsworth made the ultimate sacrifice.

While directing traffic to avoid a roadway hazard along a rural stretch of State Route 13 near Garland in Box Elder County, Trooper Ellsworth was accidentally struck by a passing vehicle. For 4 days, he remained in critical condition at Intermountain Medical Center, defying the odds and fighting to live another day in that uniform. But on November 22, 2016, Eric succumbed to the injuries sustained in the crash and passed from this life into the next. He died honorably, doing what he loved—and lived—to do: helping others and serving his community.

Indeed, if you look at the trajectory of Eric's life, you are left with the distinct impression that the man was destined, from the very start, to be a highway patrol trooper.

He was the seventh of nine children—and the eldest brother—which must have taught him at an early age what it means to live with duties and obligations toward others. And his hero—his father, Ronald Ellsworth, who was also a highway trooper—showed him what courage as a daily discipline looks like.

Like most sons who revere their dads, Eric grew up wanting to follow in his father's footsteps. And so he served.

He served his community, as an Eagle Scout and an active member of his church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He served his family, as a loving husband to his wife and high-school sweetheart, Janica, and a nurturing father to their three sons, Bennett, Ian, and Oliver. He served his fellow citizens and countrymen as a highway trooper who kept watch over the roads in northern Utah. And most importantly to Eric, he served his Heavenly Father, as a missionary in Winnipeg, Canada, and as a faithful witness of Jesus Christ.

At 31 years of age, Trooper Ellsworth's life was cut tragically short. But in those 31 years, he did more to help his fellow man than most of us can hope to accomplish in a lifetime. He lived a full and bighearted life, always ready to answer the call of service and dedicated to making the world not just safer but better for everyone.

This is Eric Ellsworth's legacy, his gift to the world, and his sons' greatest inheritance: the enduring example of a life well lived.

May he rest in peace, and may God bless his family and the community he served—it will never be the same without him.

Thank you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IDAHO HOMETOWN HERO MEDAL

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the 2016 Idaho Hometown Hero medalists.